FIRE.—About 9 o'clock on Tuesday evening a fire was discovered in the brewery of Philip Schoenewald, No. 92 Ewen street, Brooklyn. It was extinguished by the workmen with but slight damage.

New-York Daily Tribune.

THURSDAY, JUNE 24, 1858.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice can be taken of anonymous Communications. Whatever is intended for insertion must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer—not necessarily for publication, but as a guaranty of his good faith.

The trial of Gen. LANE, for the murder of Col. JENKINS, commenced at Lawrence on the 14th inst. Five lawyers appeared upon each side. Among those on behalf of the prosecution was Ex-Secretary STANTON. During the first and second days the physician who examined the body of the murdered man, and RAY GREEN, a witness of the affray, were examined. We print the evidence in full elsewhere.

We print elsewhere the compact and forcible speech of the Hon. ABRAHAM LINCOLN before the late Republican State Convention at Springfield, Ill., setting forth the distinctive position and views of the Republicans of Illinois, as distinguished from those of Senator DOUGLAS and his supporters. We need not ask attention to this concise and admirable statement. Mr. LINCOLN never fails to make a good speech, when he makes any, and this is one of his best efforts. And its leading positions will be heartily indorsed by the great body of the Republicans of other States, as they already have been by those of Illinois.

In the actual state of things, a determined contest between the Republicans of Illinois and the great mass of the Democrats of that State who sympathize with Mr. DOUGLAS, is inevitable. We have earnestly hoped that this contest might be avoided. So long as the Slave Power remains in possession of the Federal Government, and dispenses for its own aggrandizement the Sixty or Eighty Millions which annually flow from the Treasury, it has seemed to us desirable, in the light of principle no less than in that of policy, to soften and efface whatever differences may at any time exist between those who, from whatever cause, are arrayed in practical opposition to the aspirations and the rule of the Cotton Oligarchy. We have looked to and labored for a union in 1860 of all who were found arrayed in opposition to the late flagitious attempt to impose a Slave Constitution on Kansas by the power of the Federal Government and in notorious opposition to the clearly-expressed will of the People thus sought to be subjugated. As a step toward this consummation, we have desired and labored for a substantial accord in their approaching Election between the Republicans of Illinois and that immense majority of the Democrats who stand with DOUGLAS on the platform of Popular Sovereignty.

Our expectations have been disappointed. Our efforts are, for the present, baffled. Illinois is to be the arena this year of a desperate contest which we would have gladly aided to avert. We lay no blame on this side nor on that. We do not say that this contest was not inevitable. We only fear that its effect will be, as its tendency certainly is, to drive back One Hundred Thousand Illinois Democrats into a position of open alliance with and virtual subserviency to the Slave Power. Should such be the result, it will be our unfailing consolation that we have done what we could to prevent it.

The nomination of Mr. HASKIN by an influential portion of his constituents and his frank acceptance on the platform of perfect independence are among the most gratifying signs of the times. In the British Parliament, as in other representative bodies charged with the legislative interests of a great and free people, there has almost always been a respectable and often a numerous body of independent members, asking nothing of the Ministry, expecting nothing from the success of the Opposition, but voting now with this side, then with that, to-day in solid phalanx, to-morrow divided, according to the individual convictions of the intelligent and conscientious gentlemen who maintain this honorable and responsible position. No other legislators have been so useful in correcting abuses and impelling improvements; and in Great Britain the position of an Independent has so commended itself to public favor that at least one hundred Members of the present House of Commons claim to be of this class—a number which holds at all times the balance of power between the two Aristocratic parties and changes Ministries at pleasure. So great and growing is the power of the Independents in Parliament that it has been publicly proclaimed that Parliamentary Government—that is, Government by a Ministry acting through and controlling a majority of the House of Commons—has become impossible—a circumstance which every true Liberal should hail with profound gratification.

In Congress, there have usually been two or three Members—such as John Randolph, J. Q. Adams, Horace Mann, &c.—whose allegiance to party was of a very fragile and questionable character; but a numerically powerful body of Independents has rarely been known there. But the signs of the times forebode a change. We notice that Mr. A. W. VENABLE, one of the ablest and most influential Democrats in the XXXth and in the XXXIst Congress from North Carolina, has announced himself an Independent candidate for the next House. Massachusetts bids fair to elect two or three Independents; Pennsylvania will add to their number; so, we are confident, will New-York.

Mr. HASKIN represents a District in which no single party has a majority of the entire vote; the poll in 1856 standing Haskin (Dem.) 7,195; Strang (Rep.) 5,935; Cobb (Am.) 5,084—Haskin over Strang, 1,260; Strang and Cobb over Haskin, 4,024. But, while the District is thus divided party-wise, we are confident that Mr. HASKIN's independent course as a Member has been and is regarded with profound satisfaction by a very large majority of his constituents. To those constituents he has appealed for their verdict on his course, and we cannot doubt their response. We trust no attempt will be made to bring out a Republican candidate in opposition to Mr. HASKIN; but, if there should be, it will make no difference with us, nor, we are confident, with the great body of the Republicans. All we ask of Mr. HASKIN is adherence to his own chosen platform of absolute independence of all parties and cliques, and inflexible hostility to corruption and prodigality in the Public Expenditures, and we are with him to the end of the contest.

England offers at this moment the curious spectacle of dissolution appearing at the summit of the State, while at the base of society all seems immovable. There is no audible agitation among the masses, but there is a visible change among their rulers. Shall we believe that the upper strata are liquefying, while the lower remain in the same dull solidity? We are, of course, not alluding to the cynical attempts of Palmerston and his compeers to "loot" the Treasury. The battles between the exiles and their proscribers form no more a standing feature in the medieval annals of Italian towns than the conflicts between the Ins and Outs in the Parliamentary history of England. But now we have the Tory leader in the House of Commons winding up a speech with the ominous declaration that "There is one bond of union between us [the "Radicals and the Tories] in this House and in "this country; and that is, that we shall not any "longer be the tools or the victims of an obsolete "oligarchy!" There is the House of Lords passing one point of the People's Charter—the abolition of the property qualification for the members of the Commons; there is Lord Grey, the descendant of the Whig Reformer, warning his noble compeers that they are drifting to "a total "revolution in the whole system of their Government and in the character of their Constitution;" there is the Duke of Rutland frightened out of his senses by the vista of having to swallow "the "whole hog of the five points of the Charter, and "something more." And then *The London Times* in sinister accents one day cautions the middle classes that DISRAELI and BULWER wish them no good, and, in order to master them, may ally themselves with the vile multitude; and then, the very next day, it warns the landed aristocracy that they are to be swamped by the shopocracy, to be enthroned through LOCKE KING's bill, which has just passed through its second reading in the Lower House, for the extension of the elective franchise to the £10 occupiers in the counties.

The fact is that the two ruling oligarchic parties of England were long ago transformed into mere factions, without any distinctive principles. Having in vain tried first a coalition and then a dictatorship, they are now arrived at the point where each of them can only think of obtaining a respite of life by betraying their common interest into the hands of their common foe, the radical middle-class party, who are powerfully represented in the Commons by JOHN BRIGHT. Till now, the Tories have been aristocrats ruling in the name of the aristocracy, and the Whigs aristocrats ruling in the name of the middle class; but the middle class having assumed to rule in their own name, the business of the Whigs is gone. In order to keep the Whigs out of office, the Tories will yield to the encroachments of the middle-class party until they have worried out Whig patience and convinced these oligarchs that, in order to save the interests of their order, they must merge in the conservative ranks and forsake their traditionary pretensions to represent the liberal interest or form a power of their own. Absorption of the Whig faction into the Tory faction, and their common metamorphosis into the party of the aristocracy, as opposed to the new middle-class party, acting under its own chiefs, under its own banners, with its own watchwords—such is the consummation we are now witnessing in England.

If we consider this state of internal affairs in England, and couple with it the fact that the Indian war will continue to drain her of men and money, we may feel sure that she will be disabled from clogging, as she did in 1848, the European Revolution that draws visibly nearer. There is another great power which, ten years ago, most powerfully checked the revolutionary current. We mean Russia. This time, combustible matter has accumulated under her own feet, which a strong blast from the West may suddenly set on fire. The symptoms of a servile war are so visible in the interior of Russia, that the Provincial Governors feel themselves unable otherwise to account for the unwonted fermentation than by charging Austria with propagating through secret emissaries Socialist and revolutionary doctrines all over the land. Think only of Austria being not only suspected but publicly accused of acting as the emissary of revolution! The Galician massacres have, indeed, fully proved to the world that the Cabinet of Vienna knows, in case of need, how to teach serfs a socialism of its own. Austria, however, angrily retorts the charge, by the statement that her eastern provinces are overrun and poisoned through Russian Panslavist agents, while her Italian subjects are wrought upon by the combined intrigues of Bonaparte and the Czar. Prussia, finally, is keenly awake to the dangers of the situation; but she is bound hand and foot, and interdicted from moving in any direction. The royal power is, in fact, broken by the insanity of the King, and the want of full powers on the part of the Regent. The strife between the camarilla of the King, who refuses to resign, and the camarilla of the Prince, who dares not to reign, has opened a floodgate for the popular torrent.

Everything, then, depends upon France, and there the commercial and agricultural distress, financial *coup d'état*, and the substitution of the rule *of* the army for rule *by* the army, are hastening the explosion. Even the French press at length admits that all hopes of a return of prosperity must be abandoned for the present. "We "believe that it would be foolish to tantalize the "public with the chimerical hope of an immediate "reaction," says the *Constitutionnel*. "The stagnation continues, and in spite of the existing favorable elements, we must not expect any immediate modification," says the *Patrie*. The *Union* and the *Univers* re-echo these complaints. "It is "generally admitted that there has not been more "commercial distress experienced in Paris since "the Revolution of 1848 than at the present moment," says the Paris correspondent of *The London Times*; and the shares of the Credit Mobilier have sunk down to something like 550 frs., that is, below the nominal price at which they were sold to the general public. On the other hand, the emptiness of the Imperial exchequer forces Napoleon to insist on his plan of confiscation. "The only thing "to be asked is," says a clerical paper appearing at Anjou, "whether or not property is to be respected." Property indeed! The only thing to be asked at this moment, answers Bonaparte, is how to make sure of the army? and he solves this question in his habitual way. The whole army is to be bought anew. He has ordered a general increase of its wages. Meanwhile England is alarmed and Austria in terror. On all hands, war is believed to be imminent. Louis Napoleon has no other means of escaping speedy destruction. The beginning of the end is at hand.

The squadron for laying the telegraphic cable across the Atlantic left Plymouth on the 10th inst., to proceed under canvas to mid ocean. No doubt it has reached the appointed place—lat. 52° 2', lon. 33° 18'—by this time, and its operations are probably now beginning; so that toward the first of July the Niagara, with flying colors and thundering guns, will enter Trinity Bay, bringing London news of the day seemingly four hours and a half before the events have taken place, or she will silently drop her anchor at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, after a second failure of the great undertaking.

That Europe and America will ultimately be united by an electric telegraph is certain, even if a wire has to be stretched between them through Siberia and Behring's Straits. But years will elapse before this roundabout way can be made practicable, while the ocean is as much open today as it ever will be. It is to be hoped, then, that should the present expedition be unsuccessful, the enterprise will not be abandoned, and that it will be persevered in, at whatever cost, so long as science has not demonstrated that it is an impossibility.

The capital of the Atlantic Telegraph Company is about $1,500,000. It was formed two years ago by Mr. CYRUS W. FIELD of New-York, who is the soul of the enterprise, and has had the talent to seduce American and English financiers into one of the grandest and wildest schemes that man ever attempted to realize. Taking advantage of the great discovery of a submarine plateau in the North Atlantic, the direction to be followed in laying the cable was decided upon; but, to leave nothing to chance, application was made to the Government, and soundings were taken every twenty miles of the projected way to ascertain the nature of the bottom. The bed of the ocean was found to be but two miles below the surface at the deepest point, and the bottom to be of a soft, calcareous nature, well calculated to receive the cable, and to cover it, after a time, with a new protecting coat resulting from the chemical combination of its iron covering with the circumambient substances. The kind of cable to be adopted was next considered. Some members of the Company were for a stout cable, an inch or more in diameter, protected by a covering of wires an eighth of an inch thick, like the Mediterranean and Newfoundland cables; others for a slender line of gutta-percha a quarter of an inch in diameter, inclosing the copper wire and without external protection, like the cable laid across the Black Sea during the Crimean war. The Company decided upon a cable of the outside diameter of a ten-cent piece.

In the center is a copper conductor of six fine wires twisted around a seventh wire, equivalent all together to a large pin. Around the conductor are three layers of gutta percha, put on in succession, so that a fracture in one layer will be covered by the next; and around the gutta percha are wound spirally eighteen strands made of seven fine iron wires each. This cable is so flexible that it may be wound around a man's arm; it may be elongated 25 per cent without the inside conductor breaking asunder, and it has been found to have no tendency to coil. Nevertheless, the course of the Company in adopting a cable on the mere opinion of some influential members, and in ordering 2,500 miles of it to be constructed, is very surprising. It would have been more in accordance with the spirit of investigation by which the first steps of the enterprise had been guided, to order a few miles of every kind of cable suggested, and to send a vessel to sea to test their qualities in relation to sinking, while the electricians should have experimented on their conducting capacity. The cable was made in two different factories, with only this mistake, that in one factory it was twisted from left to right, and in the other from right to left. It is confidently hoped that this circumstance will not prove prejudicial to the final result; and, since comparative experiments have not been made, no one can affirm that the Directors have not hit upon the best cable which could be devised.

The cable was completed late in the Summer of 1857. It had to be put on board in a hurry, together with some crude machinery for paying it out, when the Directors, relinquishing at the last hour the plan of commencing operations in mid ocean, the expedition started from Valencia Bay, one ship paying out and the rest of the squadron following. The result is known. The shore end of the cable, which was much larger than the cable itself, was successfully laid, together with a small portion of the Atlantic cable, till deep water was reached and the swell of the sea increased. Then it was perceived that much more of the cable had passed overboard than the distance traveled, and that by going on at the same rate there would not be enough of the cable to reach Newfoundland. The brake was in consequence ordered to be applied, and, this being done unskillfully at the moment the stern was going down, when it came up the cable was snapped asunder as if it were a piece of twine. Such a conclusion was to be expected. The inertia of the cable could not be overcome except by a force much superior to what it could bear; hence it broke, instead of moving.

The plan of obviating this difficulty by making the cable pass over a yielding sheave was suggested to the Company by Mr. VICTOR BEAUMONT of this city, and described in our columns in August last. The same arrangement was also embodied in a paying machine patented by Mr. H. BERDAN, a model of which was exhibited in New-York; and it was finally reinvented a month ago by Capt. ERICSSON, and set forth to the world in *The N. Y. Times*, he not being aware that it had been described before. Immediately after the first failure, the Company were favored with the written suggestions of some hundred individuals, mostly worthless, but yet containing a small proportion of good ideas. It was now to be expected that, taught by experience, the Directors would resort to a regular process of investigation; that engineers and mechanicians of talent would be consulted; and that paying-out or winding-up machines of various construction would be built and experimented with at sea on some merchant vessel chartered for the purpose. It was also to be expected that experiments would be made to ascertain the friction of the cable in the water, its rapidity in sinking, the curve it forms for different velocities of the ship and of paying out, the effect of tar or other kinds of covering upon its descent, and many other questions involved in the affair. The splicing was also an important matter; various instruments might have been devised and made beforehand which would only require to be closed upon the two ends to be spliced in order to establish the continuity. For the proper study of these questions, and many others which would have arisen, a whole year was scarcely time enough. The Company, however, judged otherwise, the cable was stored in tanks, and experimenting in earnest postponed to the Summer of the present year, when the Agamemnon and the Niagara again met at Portsmouth to prepare for a second trial. A few days before the whole cable was coiled on board, Prof. HUGHES made his appearance with his new printing telegraph. He met with opposition from Prof. WHITEHOUSE, who till then had been in undisturbed possession of the ends of the cable. The Directors had to interfere, and a compromise was made; it was decided that each of the three professors of telegraphing—Prof. WHITEHOUSE, Prof. THOMPSON and Prof. HUGHES—should have the ends of the cable eight hours every day. After a few experiments, Prof. HUGHES succeeded in transmitting two and a half words a minute through the whole cable; and it was then discovered that Prof. WHITEHOUSE had never been able to transmit more than one word a minute, and that with such a want of certainty that, had the cable been successfully laid last year, the electricians would have been unable to send messages through it.

A new machine has been put on board each vessel for paying out the cable. In its general features, this machine is similar to that used last year. The cable passes four times around two revolving drums in grooves cut on their surface; a large pulley provided with a brake is keyed on the same shaft with one of the drums. The two shafts are connected by the necessary gear-wheels to make them revolve together, and a small steam engine placed on the side of the apparatus may in a moment be yoked to it, and, by making the drums turn backward, wind up the cable out of the sea. This machine weighs only five tuns, while the old one weighed 25. The brake of last year consisted of two blocks placed on opposite sides of the shaft, against which they were pressed by means of a screw; these blocks were attached to a lever, and the end of this lever was fastened to a spring balance, which, under the appelation of a dynamometer, indicated, not the tension of the cable, but the amount of friction on the brake. In the new machine, there is a fillet of wood attached to a band around a flat wheel; this band is attached to a lever, at the end of which is suspended a weight which presses the wood against the wheel. An even friction is obtained by always letting part of the wheel revolve in water. Another lever, acting to raise the first, allows of easing the friction. With this arrangement, the attendant can only release the machine, but cannot entirely stop its motion. The dynamometer, which is separate from the machine, consists of a weighted sheave in a frame, free to move up and down between vertical guides, and under which the cable is made to pass. When the tension of the cable is small, the movable pulley is down on a rest; when the tension increases, it is raised more and more, and the part of the cable which sustains it approaches more and more the horizontal position. Near the pulley is a scale on which the tension corresponding to its hight is indicated. If a spring were substituted for the weight attached to this pulley, it would act as the safety apparatus spoken of above, provided its motion were as great as that of the pitching of the stern; but as it is, it merely substitutes the inertia of the weight for the inertia of the cable. It has nevertheless the advantage of subtracting from the resistance to sudden motion the friction of the cable in the water.

The squadron, composed of the Agamemnon and Niagara, with the Valorous and the Gorgon in attendance, started on the trial trip on the 29th ult. They reached deep water opposite the western coast of France lat. 47° 12' N., lon. 19° 32' W., and began experimenting on May 31. The depth of the water was found to be three miles, or 2,530 fathoms; there was not a breath of wind, and the sea was as smooth as a sheet of glass, with a long, deep swell from the ocean. The two ships were connected by a hawser 800 feet long; the Niagara sent over her end of the cable, and they proceeded to make a splice on board the Agamemnon. In order to prevent any undue strain on the splice, a piece of wood fifteen feet long, and shaped like a crescent, was used. Each end of the cable is placed in a covered groove, cut along the branches of the crescent; the ends pass out of it through side-holes near the center, in the same manner that a thread comes out of the shuttle of a sewing-machine; and the two ends are joined by a regular splicing of the conductors, covered with gutta-percha and with iron wires. This apparatus was passed overboard with a heavy weight attached to the apex, in order to prevent the differently twisted cables from untwisting. The splicing occupied several hours, and at 5 p. m. they proceeded to pay out the cable from both vessels. In each ship, a man is placed at the brake in front of the dynamometer, and when the vessel lurches, and the tension increases in consequence, he eases the brakes in proportion. When, at 9 o'clock p. m., each vessel had paid out a mile of cable, a signal was made to stop and try hauling in. The steam engine was connected and the machine got in motion the reverse way. A portion of the cable was wound up with perfect ease; at 9½ o'clock, both vessels again began to pay out till the splice had sunk to two miles. After the cable ceased running, its downward tendency continued for half an hour, and the strain indicated was varying between 2,400 pounds and 2,700 pounds. At 11¼ o'clock, the 12-horse power machine was again applied to haul in; this time it proved insufficient, and several men were called in to help by pulling at the fly-wheel to make the cable wind up—the strain was then 4,500 pounds. Soon, the cable got under the hawser, which was cut in a few minutes, and both ships fell off, but were kept at a proper distance by means of their engines. At 12¼ a. m. of June 1, after a mile had been hauled in, the portion of the cable belonging to the Niagara broke in the water. The Agamemnon continued to haul in, till at 2 o'clock a. m. the splice was again on board. The wood of the crescent was penetrated with salt water; one of the arms was split, and a small rod of iron forming a portion of the apparatus was bent, as if the whole had been strained sidewise. The recovered cable showed much twisting; the outside wires were unlaid, and the gutta-percha exposed in many places. As for the portion beyond the splice, it was coiled into such a solid mass that nothing better could be done than cut it away and let it sink. The cause of this alteration of the cable is unknown. Some ascribed it to the strain of 4,500 pounds it bore during the winding up; others to the pressure of 5,000 pounds to the square inch which occurs at a depth of two miles in the ocean.

The two vessels were again connected by a hawser, and a splice made on board the Agamemnon. At 9 a. m. the hawser was released, and both steamers went slowly in different directions, paying out the cable all the while. From the Agamemnon one mile had been paid out at 9:40, the ship moving 2¼ miles, the cable 3 miles per hour; the strain was 16 cwt., the angle of the cable with the horizon 16 degrees. It took 16 minutes to sink the second mile, the strain increasing to 2,400 pounds, and the angle diminishing to 15 degrees. At 10 o'clock, they successfully changed from one coil to another without stopping. The third mile went out in 14 minutes, with a strain of 2,800 pounds. At 10:20, the continuity was suddenly lost. During the same time, two miles were let out of the Niagara, taking every check from the machine; then a third mile, gradually checking the velocity, when the machine was reversed to try hauling in. During this last process of paying out, so much tar accumulated in the grooves of the various sheaves, that it was necessary to send a man to scrape it out; the tar was so hard that the scraper broke in the operator's hands, and a piece falling between the cable and the pulley, cut the cable asunder; this was the cause of the interruption of continuity.

Till this moment, all the experiments had been made with a condemned portion of old cable. The new cable was now to be tried. The vessels were connected anew by a hawser, and a splice was made and passed overboard, and at 6 o'clock about two miles had been paid out of each vessel, the object this time being to try electrical experiments, the brakes were let down so as to let as little superfluous cable run out as possible. The vessels not being under head way had turned broadside to the swell, and pitched more heavily, so that the dynamometer varied sometimes in a single second from 2,000 pounds to 6,000 pounds, nearly the breaking strain. A little after 6 o'clock the cable broke near the Agamemnon, but there are two versions of the cause. On board the Agamemnon, it is alleged that a weak portion of the cable passed overboard, and that, by examining the fracture, it is obvious that eight out of the eighteen strands of wires which cover the cable were defective on a length of six inches. In proof of this, it is stated that the strain indicated at the moment the cable parted was only 2,400 pounds. The version on board the Niagara is, that a heavy cast-iron wheel which the engineers of the Agamemnon had insisted upon having, instead of a light wrought-iron one, was the cause of the mischief. The strain on board the Niagara was 4,500 pounds. A portion of the night was devoted on this vessel to winding-in the cable, but the splice could not be got on board, and in the pulling broke and went to the bottom, with the two miles of cable from the Agamemnon. On the 2d of June, at 7:30 a. m., a new splice was made with portions of the old cable; each vessel let go one mile and a half and kept it suspended. In the mean time the breeze had freshened and there was a sea on. Toward 9 o'clock, the Agamemnon gave a heavy lurch and snapped the cable. This was the last experiment made in common by the two frigates.

Each ship had been provided with a buoy 30 feet long and 6 feet in diameter. Each proceeded to pay out a few miles of cable; fastened it to the buoy, and then paid out more. In both cases, the cable remained suspended for a short time, but broke away from the buoys before they could be reached again after letting them go. In the course of these experiments, the cable broke several times, in places which had become weak by the rusting of the outer covering. The last experiment made on board the Niagara was that of paying out at the great speed of eight miles an hour. This was perfectly successful. No undue strain or tendency to coil was the consequence, and it may be that the American portion of the cable will be paid out at this rate. The last experiment on board the Agamemnon was to ascertain if it was possible, in case of a fault going overboard, to hold on by the cable, cut away the injured portion, and make a splice. This experiment was highly unsuccessful; the cable broke twice in succession at the place of fastening to the auxiliary wire rope before it could be wound up.

From the facts of this experimental cruise, the conclusion is forced upon us that the operations of the Company have been conducted without method, that much that could have been reduced to certainty has been left to chance, and that in consequence the odds against success, which are always great in an enterprise of such magnitude, and in which so many contingencies may happen, are enormous.

Though several times prosecuted and condemned in his character as journalist, and also in his character as philosophical critic of what he regards as social anomalies—including, for that matter, the greater part of existing institutions and usages—M. PROUDHON has enjoyed a degree of liberty hardly conceded to any other writer since Napoleon III. assumed the guardianship of the French press. His last work, however, in three large volumes, entitled "Justice in the Revolution and the Church: "New Principles of Practical Philosophy," has been made the occasion of a prosecution, which has resulted in the condemnation of its author to three years' imprisonment and a fine of four thousand francs. This proceeding was the more unexpected, since his former works had contained, more or less distinctly, all the ideas embodied in this, and especially as he had obtained, as it were, a sort of consent on the part of the authorities to go on with its publication. A Frankfort journal having announced the work as being in the press, with some hints as to its character, the French police had interfered, and had called the printer and publisher to account. But PROUDHON having waited on the Prefect of Police, and warmly insisted on his right to enter on a philosophical discussion of social problems, the objections had been withdrawn, and the publication had been allowed to go on.

The judgment of the Court seems still to concede this privilege of philosophical discussion, or, as the Court expresses it, the right of freely setting forth one's opinion and discussing the opinions of others on every subject, even that of religion included. At the same time, the right and duty of judicial interference is insisted upon whenever this discussion, passing the bounds of a wise moderation, assumes the character of violence, and transgresses the boundaries of allowable controversy fixed by the laws. Such is the first of the charges which serve as the foundation of PROUDHON's sentence. He is accused of outraging morality, public and religious, by speaking of religion and of the marriage relation in the most violent and injurious terms, tending and intended to give the most painful shock to religious opinions for which the law commands respect. Thus he professes, as one object of his work, which he himself characterizes as anti-theistic, to "eliminate God as "useless." He speaks of Christ as the "putative "son of God." He represents the Church as established "outside of justice, of which it "does not even possess the idea;" that its flock "is composed exclusively of "the rich;" that the poor "quit it because it is a "stepmother to them;" that it "debases the nation "instead of instructing it;" that it "practices mer "cantilism;" that it "makes money out of every "thing;" that it "enriches itself by sponging;" that "like an adulterous woman, it has lost the "feeling of its own immorality;" that "its end, "that is to say, its paradise, is robbery, and the God "it serves a demon." Nor are his sarcasms less outrageous upon the practices and the prayers of the Church, especially the Sunday service, which, according to the interpretation of its terms which he imputes to the Church, "is a tissue of ideas, "silly, contradictory, immoral even, and impious "—an incomprehensible galimatias." He charges the Church, in its attempts to reform manners, with having perverted the institution of marriage, desolated hearts, and inflamed luxury; "that "it does not distinguish marriage from concubi "nage, but blesses both alike, provided its blessing "is asked;" that "it has made adultery the corollary of marriage, which has thus become a